

balls, why Nick's name had been inscribed on each of their gifts. Into his leadership style, SFC Richardson has managed to fold toughness, moral authority, compassion, and intelligence—or, more specifically, the ability to think critically about and to respond swiftly to unpredictable and challenging situations. And then there's the amazing symbiosis that my commander and first sergeant have been able to establish. They are the only command pair in my entire squadron not to have previously deployed to either Afghanistan or Iraq since combat operations began in those places in 2001 and 2003, respectively. However, they have not allowed this relative inexperience to adversely affect our troop's operations. Rather, they have approached our campaign plan with a refreshing open-mindedness, rigorous planning process, and strict attention to detail that have helped to keep our Soldiers safe and our unit mission effective.

I have still only spoken in relatively general terms thus far, but I want to share with you a specific example from our deployment that I believe demonstrates the courage and discipline of our Soldiers and, more generally, illuminates the value of service. In mid-October, after only a month in our sector, our infantry platoon was conducting dismounted night-time reconnaissance of a piece of key terrain. The 8-man dismounted element had just embarked on their patrol when their senior scout, SSG Hurlbutt, stepped on an anti-tank mine. He was blown off the ground and sent hurtling 15 feet through the air into a reed-choked and half-filled irrigation canal. Without hesitating, the dismounted team leader, SGT Love, and one of the other members of the patrol, SPC Conolly, immediately jumped into the canal and extracted—up its steep and slippery banks—their severely injured platoon mate—who, between the weight of his body, protective armor, weapon, and gear weighed more than 300 pounds. While they administered first aid, the platoon leader, 1LT Kimes, who was the trail man in the patrol, positioned the balance of the element in a security perimeter and coordinated for the MEDEVAC. (And, this provides me with an opportunity to praise again the technical skill and courage of Chief Reeves and the other MEDEVAC pilots upon us guys on the ground constantly rely.) Some people may be inclined to attribute the way in which the “rock lizards” were able to handle this situation to their training, but I am more inclined to attribute it to their courage and commitment to one another. As for SSG Hurlbutt, he is an extraordinary Soldier among many extraordinary Soldiers. Just prior to the deployment, he was given the option of deploying late or not deploying at all in order to care for his wife, who had only recently recovered from a very serious illness. Despite his concern for his wife, he declined the offer, understanding that his previous combat experience and deep knowledge were essential to helping his platoon transition to operations in theater. And then, in January, when my commander returned to Fort Drum, where my unit is based, for his mid-tour leave, he visited SSG Hurlbutt, who is still recovering from his injuries. In the months between sustaining the injury and my commander's visit, SSG Hurlbutt had received skin grafts to replace the skin and tissue destroyed by the mine's intense heat and he was undergoing excruciating physical therapy to recover from the chunk of flesh and muscle that he lost from his left thigh. Despite all this and despite the fact that he was barely ambulatory at the time of my commander's visit, he amazingly started campaigning to return to sector before we redeployed.

And then there's SPC Jonathan Cadavero. SPC Cadavero was my good friend and we

were in the same company at Officer Candidate School. Throughout the first half of the course, he began to have reservations about continuing his pursuit of an officer's commission—but never once questioned his desire to serve. After successfully completing the land-navigation course and receiving top marks on his academic testing and leadership evaluations, he recognized that he had met and exceeded the standards required to become an officer. He then felt that he could leave Officer Candidate School without feeling that he was dodging a challenge. He decided that he preferred to fulfill his obligations to the Army as an enlisted medic rather than as an officer, which meant less pay and decision-making authority; but, he did not care about that; he simply wanted to serve his country in Iraq. I remember having long conversations with him about his decision in our barracks at Ft Benning. I told him that he needed to make the decision with which he felt most comfortable; either way, he would have the opportunity to serve—a motivation we both proudly shared and embraced. The next time we met was at Bradley's, the tailor shop just outside of Ft Drum; we were both having nametapes sewn on our boonie caps, assault packs, and ruck sacks in preparation for the deployment of our brigade. We talked informally about our families; about finally being in the regular Army after more than a year in various Army schools; about the long and challenging deployment that hovered on the horizon. Over the next 6 months, we met randomly on Camp Striker—at the gym, at the chow hall, around our living quarters—each time sharing warm conversation, sometimes about the Army, but usually just about baseball. On February 27th, while acting as the platoon medic for a route-clearance element operating in support of my unit's sister troop, he was killed when an IED detonated under the truck in which he was riding. This device was buried deep under the paved surface of the road on which he was traveling, and, when it detonated, it completely destroyed his truck and killed all of the occupants. I remember seeing his name listed among the casualties. At first, everything seemed to collapse with the pain I felt for his loss, for his family, friends, and fellow Soldiers. And then everything seemed to explode in a rush of memories—wandering through the woods of Ft Benning in our desperate attempts to find our points on the land-navigation course or cracking jokes before the dreaded arrival of our supervisors at the ridiculous light-out ritual each night. I remember his distinctive New York accent, his infectious smile, his wit, his intelligence, his unwavering desire to serve his country as a Soldier during wartime. His sacrifice and sense of duty should be an inspiration to his fellow Soldiers and to the country he proudly served, but these are no comfort to his family and friends. The memory of his loss is still too fresh. The loss of each service member sends ripples of pain throughout communities; those closest to him are touched in a way that is impossible for most of us to imagine. Most can sympathize but not really empathize. This is the fundamental challenge of Memorial Day: once a year, we have the opportunity to congregate as a community and as a society to commemorate their sacrifice—but perhaps more importantly—to celebrate their legacy. I would encourage everyone to find the name of an individual Soldier, Marine, Airman, or Sailor, who has lost their life while serving their country; give that name and the magnitude of their sacrifice specific attention. This will help us to humanize the sacrifice that spans generations. This sacrifice and service connect us all in a tragic but crucial narrative. Ours is a country built upon the value of service and

it should be celebrated—even if it must be done with a somber tone and painful heart. I know that on every Memorial Day from this day forward, I'll take the opportunity to reflect on the life and sacrifice of SPC Cadavero.

Rare is this profession of arms for its whole essence is built upon a foundation of specifically conceptualized values that are intended to discipline individual Soldiers into a coherent and selfless team. The only constants that Soldiers will ever have are the support of their fellow Soldiers, the value of their service, and the appreciation of the grateful nation whom they serve. Soldiers have always been asked to sacrifice their comforts and desires for the sake of the team and for the mission. Unlike the civilian world, Soldiers are required to see their commitment through to the end regardless of the extenuating circumstances that may arise after making the oath of enlistment or commission. I am awed by the courage and service of my Soldiers, by their ability to manage their myriad personal and family concerns while negotiating the constant threats to their safety that lurk ominously every time we leave the wire in Iraq. The purpose of Memorial Day is for our nation to recognize and express their appreciation for this service, in general, and the sacrifice of those that have lost their lives while serving, more specifically. I ask only that we, as a community, embrace this opportunity to contemplate seriously what this service and sacrifice have meant in the development of our country and in the expression of our shared values.

HONORING GEOFFREY SEFFENS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Geoffrey Seffens for 32 years of dedicated service to the Fairfax County Public School system.

After graduating from the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music in Ohio, Mr. Seffens began his career as an elementary band teacher in Northern Virginia. Not one to shy away from a challenge, Mr. Seffens spent his first 4 years as a teacher engaging students from five different schools. Not only did he rise to this challenge but he pushed himself even further, teaching more than 400 students from nine schools over the course of the next 2 years. Mr. Seffens's hard work was recognized in 1979 when he was selected as the new band director at Lanier Middle School. Ever since joining the faculty at Lanier, Mr. Seffens has continued to guide students towards musical achievement while becoming an indispensable member of the school's community.

As a native of Northern Virginia and a product of the Fairfax County Public School system himself, Mr. Seffens and his successful teaching career stand as a testament to the region's firm commitment to academic excellence. Upon his retirement after years of commendable work, Mr. Seffens will certainly be missed by students and faculty alike.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mr. Seffens's steadfast devotion to raising the standard of musical education and personally thank him for his dedication to the Fairfax County Public

School system. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Geoffrey Steffens for his service to our Nation and wishing him the best in a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 6, 2007, I could not be present for rollcall votes 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, and 439 because I was attending my daughter's high school graduation.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

"No" on rollcall 431, H. Res. 435—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 2446, Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 432, H.R. 1716—Green Energy Education Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 433, H.R. 632—To authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish monetary prizes for achievements in overcoming scientific and technical barriers associated with hydrogen energy;

"No" on rollcall 434, H.R. 964—Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 435, H.R. 2446—Kirk Amendment;

"No" on rollcall 436, H.R. 2446—Kucinich Amendment;

"Yes" on rollcall 437, H.R. 2446—Motion to Recommit with Instructions Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 438, H.R. 2446—Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

"No" on rollcall 439, H.R. 2560—Human Cloning Prohibition Act.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE CENTER ON HALSTED

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the opening of the Center on Halsted, a new gay and lesbian community center at 3656 N. Halsted, in the heart of the northside of the Fifth District. This new facility will give the surrounding community a state of the art building for youth services, mental health services and community/cultural programming and more.

The Center on Halsted has actually served Chicago's gay and lesbian community for more than three decades. Unfortunately, though, they had to make do with temporary facilities for a number of years. Today, the community has a place to call home.

This grand opening has been a long time in coming, with planning dating back to 2001. I am proud to have worked closely with the leadership at the Center on Halsted, Mayor Daley, Alderman Tunney, and many other local leaders to make the dream of a new center a reality.

The Center on Halsted focuses their programming into three areas: mental health,

youth and community outreach, and cultural programming. One of the center's goals is to provide role models for young members of the gay and lesbian community.

The three-story facility is a proud home for a proud community, and the end product is almost as remarkable as the hard work of all the people who made it happen. The roof deck, computer lab, theater facilities, Whole Foods, café, and more will make the Center on Halsted a welcoming location for its neighbors and an engine for economic development on the northside of Chicago.

Madam Speaker, I am thrilled that the Center on Halsted has opened its doors. I want to congratulate everyone involved on a job well done, and I know the center will be an important part of Chicago for a long time to come.

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ALBERT J. SIMONE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of a distinguished academic who I am privileged to call my friend, Dr. Albert J. Simone. Dr. Simone has served as the president of Rochester Institute of Technology since September 1, 1992, and during that time I have had the pleasure of working with him as he advanced the university's reputation as a leading career-oriented institution. He is retiring his post this year, and his vision and leadership will be sorely missed.

Before taking the helm at RIT, Dr. Simone served as president of the University of Hawaii System and chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He also taught at several well-respected institutions for higher education, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, University of Cincinnati, and the University of Hawaii. But his achievements go far beyond administration and instruction.

Dr. Simone has authored countless publications, including books and journal articles on the application of mathematics, statistics, and computers to economics and business. He is a founding editor of *Decision Sciences* and is a past president and fellow of the Institute of Decision Sciences. And, although he is retiring, he will continue to make contributions to academia as he is currently in the process of collecting data for a book he will be writing on higher education.

A true trailblazer, Dr. Simone was the first American university president to officially visit North Korea, Vietnam, and Vladivostok when these regions were closed to the United States except for cultural and educational exchange. He oversaw the launch of three Ph.D. programs at RIT in the areas of microsystems engineering, computing and information sciences, and color science. And, under his stewardship, six bachelor's degree programs have been added to the university's offerings, including programs in information technology, software engineering, chemistry and polymer chemistry, biochemistry, advertising and public relations, and new media publishing. These

new programs represent the university's understanding of the needs of the community outside of it, and help distinguish the city of Rochester as a center for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Simone led RIT's largest capital campaign, raising \$310 million which enabled the university to add over 210 new scholarships, name three colleges, add seven new endowed professorships, build nine new campus facilities, add \$90 million in new applied research initiatives, and add \$34 to the RIT endowment. This capital campaign enhanced RIT's reputation, made college education more accessible for more students, and gave students and faculty better resources to pursue their academic endeavors.

Thanks to Dr. Simone and the programs he has cultivated at RIT, the university has become a strong partner in regional economic development efforts. His endeavors have consistently reflected his belief that the "'R' in RIT means something." Aside from creating academic programs at the university to address the business needs of the Rochester and the surrounding region, Dr. Simone served as chairman of the board of the Greater Rochester Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the boards of the Rochester Business Alliance, the Center for Government Research, and the Finger Lakes Partnership for the WIRED initiative. His involvement in these and countless other community organizations has benefited not only the organizations themselves, but also the university and its students by establishing important networking opportunities and using the knowledge from those relationships to inform the direction of the university.

Dr. Simone has been recognized by several organizations throughout western New York and the Nation for his outstanding leadership and community involvement. He was the recipient of the Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award from Partners for Livable Communities—2006, the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County Racial Justice Award—2005, the Rochester International Council International Citizen Award—2004, the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals President's Award—2001, and the Rochester Business Alliance Civic Medal among many, many others.

RIT and the community surrounding it owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Simone, and I am honored today to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his service. His legacy will live on at RIT, and I look forward to seeing the university continue to flourish. I wish Dr. Simone and his wife Carolie, their four children, and five grandchildren the best during his retirement.

HONORING THE 32ND ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 32nd Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT, communities, their families, and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current week-